

Nov. 22, 1999

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TO: Assistant Secretary M. John Berry,
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Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Mailstop 7229
Washington, D.C. 20240
(Fax: 202-208-3230)

RE: RECONCILIATION HEARINGS WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS,
Honolulu, Hawaii, Dec. 10-11, 1999

Herewith are three pages of testimony submitted on behalf of *Na Pua o Lota Kapuaiwa* for consideration in the reconciliation process per the 1993 Apology Resolution. Included also is the completed information form.

This is a necessary process as the Native Hawaiians and their Nation continue to heal. For too long has our plight been ignored. I am looking forward to actively participate in the hearings and the roundtable discussions.

Thank you for your attention.

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RE: RECONCILIATION HEARINGS WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS

I begin my testimony by asking my ancestors for their permission to mention them, and to represent their voice in the reconciliation process (the genealogy will be recited at the reconciliation hearing in Honolulu).

Efforts to bind Hawaii and the United States began well before the final coup in 1893. The seeds were planted early on as the missionaries ingratiated themselves with the monarchs. The evolution begins, and with time, the pace escalates until it culminates into a revolution. Changes in the geopolitical landscape begins with the religion, the abolition of the kapu, and the promulgation of a western form of democracy that results in a constitutional monarchy. The need by the Americans to secure land in fee simple results in the Great Mahele. The seeds germinate as these pseudo-Hawaiian subjects secure influential positions in the monarchical cabinet, government office and as jurist. Concurrently, they maintain or establish familial and political connections to the politicians of the east coast (United States), in particular the state of Maine. There is talk of annexation to the United States.

testimony submitted by Wilma H. Holi

During the reign of Kamehameha IV, who is pro-British, the Americans realize that their future in the Hawaiian Islands are tenuous. However, it is during the reign of Lot Kapuaiwa, His Majesty Kamehameha V, that the attitude of anti-Hawaiian monarchical rule is laid by the pseudo-Hawaiians. The haole elite were conspiratorial, greedy, held deep contempt for the native Hawaiian culture and monarchy, all the while further developing and reinforcing their alliance with the United States. The Constitution of 1864 is promulgated in Lot's attempt to return power to the monarchy. It is the last legal constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom.

Culturally, it is very Hawaiian to recite stories (mo'olelo) of the past. The story I am about to share has been closely guarded by the family until the opportunity presents itself that the descendants/heirs of Lot Kapuaiwa can assert their claim against the United States government through its representatives. (During the public testimony portion of the hearing, I may relate the stories of how my ancestors, including my grandfather, had to go into hiding and flee from the spies that were hunting down the heirs of Lot Kapuaiwa). In contrast to the myth that has been perpetuated for so long, there are heirs to the Kamehameha dynasty. I am an heir, lawfully begotten of His body. I am the great-great-great granddaughter of Lota Kapuaiwa, His late Majesty Kamehameha V.

The descendants of His late Majesty Kamehameha V, under the name of Na Pua o Lota Kapuaiwa, seek to establish through the reconciliation process, diplomatic ties that will result in the restoration of a sovereign Hawaiian Kingdom. It is our position that the diplomatic ties should be negotiated through the U.S. State Department through its Secretary, Madeline Albright. The Native Hawaiians are a political class of people who belonged to an independent nation and signed treaties with other nations.

The efforts of the Native Hawaiian leaders in the petition of the anti-annexation movement reinforced the belief that the Native Hawaiians desired to remain a

sovereign nation. That belief remains, and provides some of the impetus as the Native Hawaiian continue to discuss the issue of self-determination. Moreover, we demand indigenous control of the land and government, in particular the 1,800,000 acres of crown, government and public lands that was ceded by the Republic of Hawaii to the United States, and then through statehood to the State of Hawaii.

There is much *'eha* and *kaumaha* that the indigenous Native Hawaiians have endured over these generations. It is hoped that with the efforts put forth by this generation through the reconciliation process, that all future generations will live on free of the burden of our past. "*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono*".